of Graves' Disease (diffuse toxic goiter with exophthalmos) has been shown to differ from normal pituitary thyrotropin, and recent evidence makes it appear unlikely that the pituitary is the "cause" of this type of hyperthyroidism. All these current topics, as well as the more established aspects of thyroid physiology and pathology are discussed by outstanding experts, and these discussions are bound together by running comments from the editor, Sidney Werner, who has for years been one of the leading investigators in many of these areas.

This is a superb job of editing, bringing together the old and the new, the historical and that which is just emerging in current investigational journals. Unfortunately, or happily, depending on whether Dr. Werner looks at the matter from the viewpoint of an editor or a seeker after understanding, work on the thyroid is progressing so rapidly that an extensively revised third edition will doubtless be called for within a very few years. We hope that this new edition will contain solutions to these present mysteries: the fundamental action of thyroid hormones; the cause of Graves' Disease; the causes of non-toxic nodular goiter; the reasons, aside from beauty, why women have far more thyroid disease than men.

JEROLD M. LOWENSTEIN, M.D.

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WATER, ELECTROLYTE, AND ACID-BASE BAL-ANCE—Normal and Pathological Physiology as a Basis for Therapy—Second Edition—Harry F. Weisberg, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, The Chicago Medical School; Chemical Pathologist and Associate Attending Physician, Little Company of Mary Hospital; Co-Head, Metabolic and Endocrine Clinic and Associate Attending Physician, Mount Sinai Hospital; Consulting Physician, Central Community and Franklin Boulevard Hospitals, Chicago, Illinois. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore 2, Maryland, 1962. 533 pages, \$13.00.

Dr. Weisberg in his second edition has provided a valuable source of information on water, electrolyte, and acid-base balance to both the student and the clinician. An initial chapter devoted to terminology is particularly likely to be helpful to the novice in this field. Tables and nomograms make a large amount of information rapidly available. Graphic explanations are effectively used as teaching devices. An extensive, well cross-indexed bibliography will appeal to the investigator.

The modern student of medicine needs information of the type so well provided in this book which is therefore recommended for your library.

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RECENT DATA ON THE PHARMACOLOGY AND CLINICAL ASPECTS OF PHENOTHIAZINE DERIVATIVES—Translations, Vol. I—Moscow—1958. Published for The National Science Foundation, Washington, D. C., and The Department of Health, Education and Welfare, U.S.A., by The Israel Program for Scientific Translations, 1961. Translated by: B. Dubinski, Dr. Z. Lothane, M. Roublev, edited by V. V. Zakusov, Member Ac. Med. Sc. U.S.S.R. (These studies were performed in the Institute of Pharmacology and Chemotherapy of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Medical Sciences) 186 pages, \$2.00. Available from the Office of Technical Services, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C.

This paper-bound book is a collection of 14 reports of laboratory investigations and two clinical studies of a series of phenothiazine and chlorphenothiazine derivatives. A preface by the editor summarizes the actions of the chemical series and designates them as neuroplegic substances, since they "possess the capacity to inhibit selectively many functions of the nervous system" and "in distinction to narcotics . . . do not exert a depressing action upon the nervous system as a whole. Thus they do not exclude consciousness completely." He also points out that aside from the ataractic

effect, there is reduction of muscular tonus and muscle spasm, and the drugs are antiemetic, they lower body temperature, potentiate narcotic somnifacient and analgesic drugs and are adrenolytic, anticholinergic and antihistaminic.

Whereas the reports included in the book demonstrate all these effects on animals, the effects reported in the two clinical papers described only the ataractic effect and dryness of the mouth which was a manifestation of an anticholinergic action.

Although the pharmacologic papers are interesting, they duplicate much of the work already reported in French, English and American literature; and several, reporting average effects, fail to state the number of animals used. Clinical studies, one on surgical patients and one on psychotic patients, were limited to chlorpromazine and to menazine.

CLINTON H. THIENES, M.D.

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PEDIATRIC SURGERY—Volumes I & II—Edited by Clifford D. Benson, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery, Wayne State University Medical School; Surgeon-in-Chief, Children's Hospital of Michigan; Surgeon, Harper Hospital; William T. Mustard, M.D., F.R.C.S.(C), F.A.C.S., Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Toronto; Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto; Mark M. Ravitch, B.A., M.D., F.A.C.S., Associate Professor of Surgery, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; William H. Snyder, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S., Clinical Professor of Surgery, University of Southern California School of Medicine; and Kenneth J. Welch, M.D., F.A.C.S., Instructor in Surgery, Harvard Medical School. Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago 1, Ill., 1962, 1291 pages in Vol. I & Vol. II, and 59 pages of Index, 842 00

This is a new and definitive work on pediatric surgery by 79 international surgical authorities. It is admirably illustrated, a few of the illustrations being in full color. The cost of the two volumes is \$42.00, and it aims to be a comprehensive review of all aspects of pediatric surgery. It is a book designed to provide more than an adequate amount of information for the general physician and surgeon interested in pediatric surgery, and it is planned to be a reference work for surgeons interested primarily in pediatric surgery. The editors and contributors were dedicated to making of these two volumes the most outstanding books available today on pediatric surgery.

There is no doubt that this is an excellent two-volume set on pediatric surgery. It certainly is a work that should be in the libraries of every hospital and every medical school in the country. Its exact place in the library of the practicing physician and surgeon is, however, open to question.

There are three other American works on pediatric surgery which are worthy of mention and evaluation with respect to the present comprehensive work. The simplest and smallest book on pediatric surgery is that of Willis J. Potts. This small volume of some 150 to 200 pages gives a very personal view of the author's extensive experience on pediatric surgery. For the average physician it is more than adequate, and it is certainly far simpler and much less expensive than the present two-volume set on pediatric surgery. Of the other two excellent books on pediatric surgery, one is written by Orvar Swenson, and the other by Robert Gross. Both of the latter two books are excellent, but probably the one by Robert Gross is, at the present time, the classic in its field. It is, unfortunately, badly outdated in several sections, and there is certainly need for definitive new work on pediatric surgery. However, the books by Dr. Swenson and Dr. Gross cover admirably the entire field of pediatric surgery, are much more personal in their approach, and give the average physician all the information that is needed in